PRICE TWO CENTS.

MAINE REPORT ON MONDAY PROBABLY TO BE SENT TO CON-GRESS ON THAT DAY.

It Will Arrive in Washington To-Morrow and Be Considered in the Cabinet Meeting on Friday-Efforts to Get It Commit ted Without Debate in Both Monses-A Simple Letter of Transmittel Without Recommendations—The President Not Yet Resolved to Becognize Cuban Independence -Consular Reports on Cuba May Go in Boon-McKinley's Fear of a Jingo Outbreak

WASHINGTON, March 22 .- Congress and the public will not receive officially the report of the Naval Board of Inquiry appointed to investigate the cause of the explosion that wrecked the battleship Maine before Monday next, and possibly not for a day or two later. This statement was authorized by Secretary Long at the close of the Cabinet meeting to-day. The report will be brought to Washington on Thursday evening by Lieutenant-Commander Marix, Judge Advocate of the court, and may be handed to Secretary Long that night. It will be discussed at the regular semi-weekly Cabinet meeting on Friday, and, as it is very voluminous, will be held until Monday or Tuesday by the President that it may be digested thoroughly.

The President has determined finally, it is said by those who talked with him to-day, to send the entire report to Congress, accompanied by a simple letter of transmittal If the present programme can be carried out, the report will be referred to the commirtee in both the Senate and the House, and a day or two later the President will send to Congress a message on the general Cuban question in which he will announce his plans for ending the war and making Cuba free.

The Republican Senators who are opposed to a declaration of war by Congress, and opposed to armed intervention by the United States, and opposed to any other plan that would make the United States the aggressor against Spain, are the ones who have pressed upon the President almost to the point of success the plan of recognizing the independence of Cuba, This, they say, would not necessarily result in war, and it would be in every way a safer wiser course to follow than any other that has been proposed. This sentiment is represented by Mr. Hanna in the Senate, but it has been pointed out to the President by Senators, Cabinet members, and others who have given careful consideration to the subject that there is really less reason for recognizing the independence than for taking any of the other steps proposed. They say that the one fact that there is no tangible Cuban Government in existence would in itself make the recognition of independence indefensible, and that it would complicate the question in many ways.

It was said by a member of the Cabinet tonight that these arguments had apparently had their effect and that the President had practically determined to abandon the plan of recognizing Cuban independence, which was so considered yesterday. There is an alternative plan under consideration, it is said to-night on authority has the President's approval. This plan contemplates the sending of a message to Congress recommending an appropriation for the purpose of feeding and clothing and otherwise caring for the starving citizens of Cuba and containing the information that the President has informed Spain in so many words that the relief will be sent in such manner as the United States sees fit to adopt. and that it is the purpose of the President and his Cabinet to stop the barbarities of the Cuban war at whatever cost. The message will recall to Spain the warning contained in his message to Congress of last December and make the announcement that what was threatened then is to be a fact now.

With this message will be submitted the Consular reports so long held by the State Department. Of course it is possible that there may be no opportunity for the promulgation of this decision or the sending of a second message dispose of the report of the Board of Inoniry in the way desired by the President and his advisers in the Senate and House.

The President, indeed, is very fearful that it may not, and the purpose of all the important conferences to-day was to determine, if possible, whether the radical Cuban element can be per suaded to trust the Administration a little longer, or whether there will be an outbreak of inflammatory speeches after the redeclaration of war and scatter to the winds the report of the Maine Board of Inquiry. the President's supplemental Cuban policy, and all other questions, except that of voting money for the prosecution of a war against Spain. The President is hopeful of avoiding war, but he thinks that the situation to-night is extremely grave and that the greatest danger lies at present in the possibility of what Congress may

More than one Senator and more than one Representative has in his pocket now a resolulution declaring war, and it is feared that if they are introduced when the report of the Board of Inquiry is submitted there will be a burst of speechmaking that it will be impossible to control. The rules of the Senate and House provide that messages from the President shall be referred to the appropriate committees, and so far as the House of Representatives is concerned there is no serious reason to fear that the rules will be ignored. Speaker Reed will be in the chair and he has already given the President the assurance that so far as his power goes regular procedure will be forced strictly and impar tially, and that the message will be referred to the committee without debate. Under the rules of the House it is impossible for a member to talk upon a question that is not debatable, and it is hardly probable that any man on either side, however strong a friend of Cuba he may be, will attempt to override the rules in order to make a speech. In the Senate, as is well known, the rules are more honored in the breach than the observance. That is what

they are for, and this is where the danger lies, The President fully realizes the uncertainty of proceedings in the Senate, and he therefore continued his conferences with the loaders today. He sent for Gorman, Gray, and Morgan, and other influential Democrats, and appealed to them to assist in the work of creating a southment among the Senators of both parties and of all factions that will make it possible to keep in the background the enthusiasm in behalf of the Cuban cause until the report of the Board of Inquiry is disposed of and an opimation of the President and to receive that Government's reply.

The President feels that it is all important now to keep separate the questions growing out of the destruction of the Maine and the policy of the Administration in regard to the general Cuban situation. This afternoon two prolonged conferences were held at the Senate, one in the office of the Vice-President and the other in the room of Senator Aldrich, Chairman of the Committee on Rules. These conferences were attended by the leading Republican Senators who are culisted in the cause of preventing an outbreak of Cuban patriotism in the Senate in advance of the aubmission of the President's programme. Senators lianna, Aldrich, Platt of Connecticut, Spooner, and others were present. The second conference issted until after 7 o'clock. It is not by Mr. Morgan and other Democrats with regular navy.

whom the President has been in consultation, but after a very careful canvass of the situation it was the consensus among those who took part in the conference that the programme of receiving the report of the Board of Inquiry without debate and without action, except its reference to a committee,

would be followed out. One matter that was talked over had not been considered before. This was the point of whe ther the report should be sent to the Committee on Foreign Relations or to the Committee or Naval Affairs. The latter committee has al ready been instructed to make an investigation of the causes that resulted in the destruction of the Maine, and it is held by some Senators that the report of the Naval Board should go there instead of to the Committee on Foreign Relations, where it has been generally understood it would go. Senator Hale of Maine is Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, nowever, and his course with regard to the Cuban question has been such that there opposition to giving him conmay trol of the report. The Sepator has, surprised his colleagues very moreover, much by the announcement to-day of his opinion that war is certain and imminent, and they say that this statement, coming just at this time, has done much to increase the general feeling that war is inevitable and that Congress

might just as well take a hand in it now as later. Senator Davis of Minnesota, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, is known to be in favor of armed intervention. It is probable that the report will go to his committee, although this has not yet been decided. It was the understanding at the conference to-day that unless the sundry civil appropriation bill shall be completed to-day or to-morrow. which does not now seem likely, adjournment will be taken at the close of Thursday's session until Monday. Senator Gallinger, who has just returned from Cuba, will make to-morrow a statement of the situation there as he saw it, and he will be followed on Thursday by a like statement from his fellow traveller, Benator Thurston of Nebraska. Their thunder has been so successfully stolen, however, by the crafty Mr. Proctor of Vermont that their remarks are not likely to attract great attention or create much interest

in Congress. The contemplated programme of the President for disposing of the Board of Inquiry report when it is sent to Congress is of course based altogether upon the idea that the board will state that they find no reasons to believe Spain to be responsible for the explosion. Should the report contain the intimation, however, that Spain is guilty in any degree of the crime of blowing up the ship, there would be no further opportunity for the President to announce his Cuban policy or make a recommendation to Congress. Resolutions would be offered in both houses and speeches made that could only result in a declaration of war. It is safe to assume, therefore, that, whether the intimation has come to them officially or otherwise, the President and his Cabinet know, in a general way at least, the nature of the findings of the naval court.

There is no doubt that a large majority of both houses of Congress think that war is bound to result whatever the report of the Naval Board may be, and this feeling is growing so fast, backed up as it appears to be by the sentiment of the people, that even those public men who are the least in sympathy with the purposes of the Administration to intervene in behalf of Cuba are giving voice to it. It was the knowledge of this warlike desire that caused Senator Hale, the most pronounced anti-Cuban man in Congress, to say that war is inevitable. This is no new sentiment of his, however. He has felt for weeks and months that war would be brought about by what he regards as the "lingo" spirit in Congress. He predicted nearly a year ago, when the Senate passed the resolution of belligerency, that it would bring the question to the point it has now reached, and he thinks that the President as well as Congress has been forced into acting by the overwhelming sentiment of the American people.

THE MAINE REPORT COMING. Lieutennut-Commander Marix Is Bringing the Document North.

KEY WEST, March 22.-Lieutenant-Commander Marix, Judge-Advocate of the Maine Board of Inquiry, sailed on the steamer Key West for Miami, en route to Washington, at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, carrying the report of the board.

The Judge-Advocate should reach Jacksonville late to-morrow afternoon and Washington some time on Thursday.

The report of the board was kept on the cruiser Nashville all last night, while Judge-Advocate Marix remained at the Key West Hotel. This morning the report was brought on shore again, and at 9:45 A. M. it was in the care of a Sergeant of marines at the hotel.

Admiral Sicard and Judge-Advocate Marix were apparently awaiting the arrival of other members of the board for a consultation. Lieuts, Hood and Jungen, Cadets Bronson and

Boyd, Passed Assistant Engineer Bowers, Assistant Engineer Morris, and Carpenter Helms went north in the same steamer. Gunner Hill is expected to follow in a day or two.

Admiral Sicard, for the first time, expressed n opinion last night. He said of the disaster: 'It is the most remarkable occurrence in the history of the world."

There would be nothing remarkable in exploding a torpedo under a ship, but if the ship were wrecked by an unusual accident, or if the board had been wholly unable to learn any reasonable explanation for the explosion, that would make it remarkable.

FOR AN AUXILIARY NAVAL FORCE. Congress to He Asked to Pravide by Means of a Joint Resolution.

WASHINGTON, March 22.-Congress will be asked by the Navy Department to adopt a joint resolution, already prepared, providing fo enrollment and organization of the United States auxiliary naval force for coast defence. The passage of the resolution will be urged by Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, who believe it is necessary that such an organization shall be perfected in order that the Government may have properly trained and well-disciplined men for the second line of defence to be used in conjunction with the naval militia. Its object is enable the Navy Department to mobilize with the least possible delay a force to act as the second line of defence n protecting the coastwise cities, where yachts, tugs and other harbor craft might be employed. All coast defence auxiliary vessels under the plan are placed under control of the navy, and men are to be employed also in providing field mines and for the protection of strategic points the defence of which is not contemplated by the War Department. This force is to be under naval officers and the chief power to be placed with an officer to be designated chief the auxiliary naval force. The powers of enlistment and appointment given to him are to be made as broad as possible in order that there may be little delay in mobilization. The whole force would go out of service when a war was

over. Although the plan provides only for scafaring men under Government control and for the naval militia, immediate service would be required of the revenue marine life saving service, lighthouse service, and coast survey. The intention of the plan is to leave ships, officers, and men of the regular service, and such volunteers as the department chase to associate with them, free of aggressive movements, including the first line of defence, and to make the fact clear that although the new force will be under control of the navy it is not to be considered in aby way a part of the

WORKING DAY AND NIGHT.

NO CESSATION OF THE PREPABA-TIONS FOR WAR.

Navy and War Department Officials Regin to Show the Effect of Their Tireless Energy in Putting the Country in Shape to Fight-Possibilities of Torpedo Boat Purchase and Construction-One Bay's Progress.

WASHINGTON, March 22 .- The hard work of the last three weeks is beginning to tell on those army and navy officers who are actively engaged in emergency preparations. To-day there vas no cessation in the activity. Secretary Long and Secretary Alger, besides attending the Cabinet meeting, held important conferences and disposed of a great deal of business relating to the efforts to place the country on a war footing. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt went before the Senate Naval Committee to explain the Navy Department's policy in regard to dry docks, and on his return to his office did a pile of work. Mr. Roosevelt's able constitution is beginning to feel the effects of the constant nervous and physical tension, and, like other active officers of the Government, he showed signs to-day of the strain to which he has been subjected. Half the things that are being done by the two

military services have not been made known to the public through the newspapers. The most significant doings are being carefully concealed. Since Secretary Long issued his order prohibiting officers from giving out information about war preparations there has been comparatively little of great importance in the line of military and naval arrangements published in the press. Before the order was issued, however, the main preparations were made, and most of these were noted in newspapers which follow army and navy The Naval War Board, consisting of Assistant

Secretary Roosevelt, Capt. Crowninshield, and Commander Clover, held a meeting this after-noon to consider strategic and other questions. This board is handling the correspondence relating to the purchase of ships. It is on the naval attaches of the United States abroad the necessity of securing some torpedo-boat destroyers, but has received no encouraging responses. In fact there is little likelihood that craft of that character can be obtained and the Government will probably have to begin the construction of a number of them at once. Consultations on the subject have taken place between the War Board and members of shipbuilding firms. Lewis Nixon. the naval architect and shipbuilder of Elizabethport, N. J., has been here several days in conference with Mr. Roosevelt and his colleagues. Edward Cramp, junior partner of the famous shipbuilding firm, and his attorney, Gen. K. McCammon, had a long talk with Mr. Roosevelt this afternoon,

The War Beard has ascertained that torpedo bout destroyers cannot be built in less than six months, instead of four, as at first believed. Ordinary torpede boats can be constructed in about three months. According to estimates secured by the War Board 100 tornedo craft. can be constructed simultaneously at the shippards of the United States without interference with other naval work. Contracts for saveral destroyers will probably be awarded very soon in accordance with the wide authority given the President in the Emergency Appro priation bill. Commodore W. S. Schley was in consultation with the War Board this afternoon. Additional propositions have been submitted

to the War Board for the construction of fast torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destrovers in large numbers and in comparatively short time. As these types of vessels are the only ones that could be completed quickly, the officials have not considered the question of building larger eraft, and may yet conclude to ask for the onstruction of a number of fast torpedo boats for delivery within ninety days. Several firms have agreed to undertake the work. They have promised to have ready for Government use from twenty-five to fifty of the highest speed boats in less than three months, and some small ones in two months from date of contract. At least as many more can be built at other ship-

The Gas Engine and Power Company of Mor rls Dock, New York, now building a fast boat for the navy, made an offer to-day to build the flectest torpedo boats yet designed for the navy, and is willing to undertake the delivery of the craft in a short time. The design calls for a boat of 9,000 horse power, a speed of thirty-five knots an hour, and a displacement of 325 tone to be armed with several 6-pounders and three torpedo tubes. With 9,000 horse power this vessel would have engines more powerful than most of the cruiser type of ship, and a speed of thirty-five knots would render it the fastest boat of any class in American waters. The offer has been considered tempting and may be accepted, although it would take longer to build the boat than the Government wishes to wait for her.

Lowis Nixon has again presented a proposition for building fast torpedo boats. He says this is the only type the navy will contract for out of the emergency fund, and it is expected several will be ordered in the United States when it becomes evident that none can be secured in Eu-

rope. The officers attached to the offices of paval intelligence and military information are working night and day preparing plans and all data of value for the use of the land and sea forces of the United States. Commander Clover, chief'of the navy branch, and his assistants are working double time. They are seldom through their ially work before 11 o'clock in the evening Major Wagner, the chief of the military division, with the officers and clerks in his charge, is hardly less busy.

To-day copies of a standard work in regard to the navies of the world were sent by the Naval Intelligence Office to all bureau chiefs of the Navy Department and to com manders of vessels. Photographs and descriptions of the vessels composing the Spanish torpedo boat flotilla have been received recently. Descriptions of every vessel in the Spanish service are in the possession of the of-Major Wagner has prepared maps of Cuba. Porto Rico, and the Philippines, and marked out the routes available for a military force on each. Full reports regarding the number of Spanish and insurgent troops in Cuba, the condition of the Spanish Army, and every thing of value obtainable are on file in the mili tary information branch.

Some of the preparations made to-day were the decision to place a strong military garrison at the Dry Tortugas, the shipment of coal to Key West, the appointment of a board of naval officers to secure recruits for the navy at ports on the great lakes, and the removal of big guns for coast fortifications re-cently tested at Sandy Hook from that place to Watervillet Arsenal. Ten thousand tons of coal secured in Baltimore will be shipped to Key West immediately, in accordance with orders served to-day. This coal is for the use of

the North Atlantic squadron.

The recruiting board will visit St. Paul, De uth. Milwaukee, and Chleago, Surgeon Mo-Clung, the only officer connected with it in Washington, will leave here to morrow for the West. His colleagues will be an engineer officer and the hydrographic officer at Duluth or Chicago. Little success has attended the efforts of the navy officials to make enlistments at lake ports. So far, only twenty-five men have been recruited from among the men who

work on lake vessels. The battleship Massachusetts left Key Wes this morning for Hampton Roads, where she will find the Texas and the Brooklyn. It is expeoted that before the end of the week the

Columbia and Minneapolis will leave League Island for Hampton Roads to become part of the second division of the North Atlantic squadron. Other vessels will be added to this force from

IS SICARD TO BE RELIEVED? A Medical Ecard of Survey Sent to Examine

WASHINGTON, March 22,-Capt. A. S. Barker, special assistant in the office of the Secretary of the Navy, returned to Washington to-day rom his mysterious mission to Key West, Capt. Barker's visit to Admiral Sleard had nothing to do with the report of the Maine Court of Inquiry. He did not bring any message about the court's findings. His business was twofold. He was sent to examine the defences at Key West, with a view to recommending changes to make that important station more formidable, and also to consult with Admiral Sicard about the condition of the latter's health.

The directions to Capt. Barker to talk with Admiral Sicard on that subject and to report the result to the department were given as a result of information sent here that the Com-mander-in-Chief of the North Atlantic Squadon was in exceedingly poor condition physically, and would need a change of climate to restore him to health. There was reason to believe that Admiral Sicard was deterred from saking the Navy Department to relieve him from command on account of the fear that such a request might be construed by unthinking persons as a reflection on his courage. For the same reason the Navy Department felt a disinclination to displace the Admiral.

The President, Secretary Long, and the naval administration generally, have the highest re-gard for Admiral Sicard and a thorough confilence in his courage and ability, and if he had asked for relief there would not have been the lightest question as to the honesty of his motives. But it was realized that the Admiral's disinclination to apply for leave was due to natural motives, and in order to save embarrassment to that officer and the department, it was determined to send Capt, Barker to ascertain directly from the Admiral what his physical condition was

Several weeks ago Admiral Sicard contracted malarial fever, and a board of medical officers recommended to the Navy Department that two weeks' leave be granted him in which to recuperate. The recommendation was granted promptly, and the Admiral went to Tampa for rest and treatment. He was absent a few days only, however. Returning to Key West without notice, he informed the Navy Department that he had decided not to avail himself of the permission granted, and resumed command of the squadron, relieving Capt. Sampson, commander of the Iowa, and subsequently President of the Maine Court of Inquiry, of that duty. Since then there have been various reports that Admiral Sleard was in very poor health. These reached the Navy Department in a way that made them worthy of credence, but the department hesitated about doing anything to disturb the Admiral unless on his own request. Finally a suggestion was adopted that Capt. Barker take advantage of his visits South to see Admiral Sicard and explain to him that the department did not want him, through a strained sense of honor to his country, to further imperil his health by remaining in an enervating climate. On the basis of information from Capt. Barker a medical board, composed of surgeons of the North Atlantic squadron, was appointed to examine Admiral Sicard. The board's report had not been received this evening. It is believed in neval circles that sick leave will be granted to

There has been no serious consideration given to the appointment of a successor to Admiral Sleard as commander in chief of the big squadron, but the names of several officers have been suggested. Sentiment in several influential quarters of the Navy Department is in favor of the selection of Capt, Sampson, who, if Admiral Sleard should be retired, would attain flag rank. But considerable embarrassment might follow Capt. Sampson's detail as the commanding officer of the squadron if the present intention to appoint a Commodore to command the Hampton Roads division is carried out.

The strategic plan arranged in regard to the movements of the divisions contemplates their peration, and in the event of a joint move ment of both formations, Capt, Sampson would be obliged to surrender supreme authority to the fing officer of the second division. This does not armonize with the plans of the naval authorities, who desire the commanding officer of the Key West division to direct the operations of the two squadrons in an engagement. Just who will be the commander of the Hampton Roads contingent has not been determined. Commodores Schley and Howeli are most prominently mentioned. Rear Admiral Bunce, the commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, who organized the present North Atlantic squadron has been suggested as the successor of Admiral Sleard. No action in the matter will be taken until the report of the medical board engaged in examining into Admiral Sicard's physical condition has been passed.

ARMING THE MATFLOWER.

Monute for Her 5-Inch Rifles in Position-The Bolphin to Be Hendy Saturday.

The work of transforming the Mayflower from a yacht into a ship of war was begun in carnest yesterday at the navy yard. Mounts for two five-inch rifles were put in position and the mounts for the twelve-pound guns and the two torpede tubes were selected. The twelve-pounders will be mounted on the broadside, the torpedo tubes will be placed at the bow, while one of the five-inch rifles will be mounted on the forecastle and the other on the poop deck. A belt of Harveyized steel seven eighths of an inch thick will be placed around the hull, and will extend from the load-water line to within a few inches of the deck. The rifles to be mounted are now at the yard. The torpedo tubes have been ordered from New The estimated cost of the alterations is shout \$25,000, and it is expected that the May flower can be made ready for service in three

A draft of 115 men for the crews of the cruis. ers Columbia and Minneapolis has been made on the receiving ship Vermont. The men will be sent to the League Island Navy Yard to-day, Among them will be two petty officers and thirty able seamen; the others will be apprentices. This draft leaves on the Vermont only the crew of the Dolphin and about forty apprentices. The boilers of the Dolphin were tested yesterday and more of her guns were unsunted. On Saturday Capt, Sumner, Captain of the yard, will turn the Dolphin over to Commander Lyon, whose flag will be hoisted, and she will go into commission.

There is much speculation at the navy yard as to who will be selected to command the Mayflower. A number of officers have been mentioned, and one of them said yesterday; "There's not one of us who wouldn't think luck had struck him all in a heap if he were selected. It lan't every day that one can got such a splendid craft to command." ers Columbia and Minneapolis has been made

Burrying Up the McMee and Plunger. BALTIMORE, March 22 .- Work on the United

States torpedo boats McKee and Plunger is going on day and night at the Columbian Iron going on day and hight at the Columbian Iron Works. It is expected to give the Plunger a dock trial this week. The lighthouse tender Holly, which has been lengthened, and the new minety-foot steel tug building at the iron works are also being resultly pushed to completion, as they would prove of value to the Government in case of war as deepatch boats or tenders, steem has been gotten up in the Plunger, and there are great expectations as to what she will do.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 22.-The work of outting Fort Sumter in fighting trim will begin to-morrow. Hig guns will be mounted. Prop. erty on Sullivan's leland is being condemne for use of the Government troops. A detach ment from St. Augustine will arrive here to

INSURGENTS FIGHT HARD.

THEY GIVE THE SPANIARDS BAT-TLE NEAR HAVANA.

Sere Engagements in Santa Clara Province Spain Informs the Autonomiet Covernment That It Bust Pay Its Own Bills-No One Knows Where the Meney Will Come From.

HAVANA, March 22, via Key West.-The in irgents are displaying great activity near Havans. Col. Dávalos, who is now in command of the late Gen. Aranguren's forces, has proved to be a worthy successor of that dashing Cuban eader. Just now a report has arrived (and it is confirmed officially by the Spanish) of a very not engagement near Viajacas and Palos, a few miles from this city, between the battalion of Guipuscoa, led by Col. Tort, in combination with four Spanish guerrilla detachments, and a strong body of insurgents under Davalos. Ac cording to the Spanish official report, the insurgent forces, besides the band of Davales, comprised those of Machado and Camejo and num bered all told 200 men, all cavalry, who occupied

strong positions. Of course, the Spanish claim a victory. Their report says that after a lively contest the Cubans abandoned their positions, and Col. Tort, follow ing them, defoated them again some miles from the place where the first engagement occurred. But as the battle was fought so near Havana the Cubans received news concerning it at the same time that the Spanish official report came to hand, and they say that it was one of the most brilliant victories of their army in this

The mere fact, acknowledged by all, that an portant engagement has been fought to-day in Havana province is enough to prove that Gen. Blanco's reported progress toward pacification here is as false as the famous reports of Weyler

In Santa Clara province the war is also being rigorously pushed. It is reported to-day of ficially that the battalions of Rey and Albuera had important engagements in the Jibaro Sancti Spiritus district, with Cuban forces. It is said by the Spaniards that these battalions on land and the gunboat Satellite by sea made a combined attack on a Cuban camp near Tava hosa, dislodging the insurgents and seizing docu ments belonging to the Cuban detachment of Scrafin Sanchez. The correspondent is unable to ascertain if these engagements are those de scribed in an official report from Gen. Gomez just received here, in which he says that his forces captured from the battalions of Rey and Albuera a valuable convoy of provisions and

war material. While all the news of the war is interesting to-day, perhaps the most important, owing to ts significance, is the order just received from Madrid by the Colonial Cabinet that after May I the Autonomist Government of the island wil have to raise the money to pay all the govern mental expenses of Cuba. Up to this time Spain has provided for some, if not all, of the necessities of the local Government, as the Colonial Cabinet came into power without a cent in its treasury, and the country was totally mined and not under the control of the Spanish troops. But Spain now has no more money to give to the Autonomists. Her own burdens are aufficient to ruin ber.

How can the Colonial Cabinet levy taxes in the present condition of the island! This prob em now confronts the Autonomists, and even if, before May 1, the war is not ended by the triumph of the Cubana or the lateryes the United States, the utter failure of auton omy will then be clearly seen.

But still the central Government will continue to hold for the payment of the crushing load of debt the paltry revenue of the custom houses which are now the only sources of income. The Colonial Cabinet will have to levy taxes upor the country occupied by the insurgents, and in crease the taxes in the already ruined cities and towns.

SPAIN AND THE MAINE WRECK Sagasia Will Be in No Hurry to Answer a Bemand for an Indemnity.

HAVANA, March 22 .- On account of the semiofficial declaration made here to-day that if the Spain for the disaster to the Maine, Spain will not answer the American note until receiving the report of Senor Peral, Judge Advocate of the Spanish Board of Inquiry, your correspondent called to-day on that Spanish naval officer to inquire when his report will be ready.

Schor Peral said that though he is working hard be cannot tell precisely when his report had already communicated any of his views as to the accident to Madrid.

The Spanish authorities here believe that the report of Schor Peral will be ready on Wednes-

There is great anxiety in Madrid, according to a despatch received to-day by La Lucha over the report of the American Board of Inquiry. Pressure is made on the Government by the radical parties and the Conservatives to consider any demand for an indemnity as an insult to Spain's honor.

Gen. Weyler has definitely withdrawn his candidacy as Deputy to the Cortes from Ha vana. He says that under the present circumstances the insulting attitude of the United States toward Spain prevents him from par ticipating in political contests, and he desires only that the day may soon come when he may

again serve his country on the field of battle. It is probable that the work of the divers at of the death of Mr. Williams from yellow faver The waters are poisoned by the bodies, about 100 in number, which still remain in the hull of the battleship, and it is feared that to agitate the waters more will cause the outburst of an epidemic of yellow and putrid fevers.

The divers are deeply concerned over the dan ers imposed by further investigation. Louis Bergeson of Norway died yesterday from fever on board the tugboat Chief. His body was placed in a metallic coffin to be sent to-mor ow to Key West.

La Discusion praises to-day the charitable work of Mr. Klopsch and says that the American Red Cross Society is contributing \$2,000 daily for the relief of 300,000 starving persons who would surely die without this assistance. The same newspaper publishes an official denial from the Governor of Havana, Senor Bruzon, of a statement made in the New York Herald, that Senor Bruzon proposed to Gen. Blanco the expulsion of the American corre

spondents from Havana, La Lucha prints to-day a savage attack on the Autonomist party, which is very significant at the present time. La Lucha says that the Autonomists in power are not worthy of their own programme, and that, inspired by fright of what may be charged against them by the ultra Conservatives, they are appointing as candidates for Deputies to the Cortes persons re siding in Madrid and without any interests in the island.

Up to this evening the test of the floating dock has not been a great success. The cruiser Alfonso XII, has not been lifted yot, and there is some trouble with the dock.

The Marbichead at Key West.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 22.—The cruiser Marblehead arrived from Tampa to-night, bringing it is said, the last of the ammunition that was shipped overland to Tampa for the firet.

The New York Not Likely to Come North KEY WEST, March 22.-It is said to-night, on authority, to be highly improbable that the flag ship New York will be detached from the squad on here and sent North.

A Feeling at Madrid That Important Bevole

monts Are Impending. Special Cubic Desputch to Tax Sun.

MADRID, March 22 .- There is an ominous reti cence in official circles here which indicates the gravity of the situation. There is an uneasy feeling that important developments are impending; indeed, that they are momentarily ex pected.

The Government, as already cabled to THI Sun, has decided that the censorship of press despatches shall be much stricter henceforth, and an order has been issued forbidding the transmission over telegraph lines of any information whatever concerning the movements of the Spanish fleet.

SAYS SAGASTA BLUNDERED.

Our Divers Should Not Have Been Permitted the Maine Without Spaniards. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR.

Madrid, March 22.-The Heraldo charge that the Government made a grave error in allowing American divers to examine the wreck of the Maine without being accompanied by Spanish divers.

The paper reiterates its statement that the American divers used dynamite to bolster up the theory that the warship was destroyed by an exterior explosion.

SPANISH REPORT ON THE MAINE It Won't Be Made Public Till Spain Becoive Our Board's Report.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR. MADRID, March 22.-The Spanish Governmen nas received its report on the blowing up of the American warship Maine, which it is withhold ing until the report of the United States Board of Inquiry is received. The Spanish report may then be issued in an amended form.

COULD ENGLAND MEDIATE?

She Might Offer Her Priendly Offices on th Basis of Independence for Cuba.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. London, March 22.-The Daily News will tonorrow editorially propound a question as to whether there is any possibility that, in the present critical stage of the relations between the United States and Spain, a disinterested offer of mediation by Great Britain on the basi of granting independence to Cuba would help toward an understanding.

PUBBING WAR BUSINESS HERE. ables Between the Forts and a Telephone

the Hook-Guns for Paget Sound. Representatives of four wire-making com panies met Capt. James Allen of the Signal Corps at Governor's Island yesterday and were invited to tender bids for cables to be laid to onnect the fortifications in this harbor. The bids will be opened on Thursday. Other things

equal, preference will be given to the bidder who can do the work quickest. There is to be a three-conductor twelve-mile cable between Fort Wadsworth and Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook, and six-conductor cables from Fort Wadsworth to Fort Hamilton, and from Fort Schnyler to Fort Slocum, Willets Point. There is to be a telephone line from the Army Building to Fort

telephone line from the Army Building to Fort Hancock.

Cept. C. A. Duval, who has charge of the work of building the barracks and officers' quarters at Fort Hancock, said yesterday that all the buildings, which are of yellow brick, are now roofed, and that the barracks will be ready for occupancy about June 1.

At the office of the department Quartermaster-General, Lieut.-Col. A mos S. Klimball, bids were opened yesterday for transporting ordnance to the fortifications on Puget Sound. The contract, which was awarded to the Northern Pacific Railroad, calls for the transporting of two 12-inch guns and four 8-inch guns from Sandy Hook and for the six disappearing carriages for the same from the foundry at Watertown, Mass. There will be 800,000 pounds of freight in all, and the price is \$9,500 for the whole.

WAR ACTIVITY IN BRIDGEPORT. Pactories Busy Preparing Material for Various Minds of Work.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 22.-The Union Metallic Cartridge Company is making extensive tests of submarine mines in Pembroke Lake The explosives are placed in the shells, which old an equal weight of lead. The mines are sunk to a certain depth and are kept there float ing by overcoming the pressure of the water with air which is contained in them. The pur pose of the tests is said to be to ascertain the relative quantities of air and explosives which may be used. The company is working night and day and will ship a carload of cartridge this afternoon.

The American Ordnance Company is als mahing its orders with the greatest despatch

pushing its orders with the greatest despatch possible. It will ship several four inch Dashlel guns this week. This company has received orders from the Government for a large number of Howell torpedoes.

The Ordenace Company has a large tank in which the torpedoes are tested for their floating and balancing capacity, and when they are perfect in that respect the torpedoes are sent to the company's trating station at Tiverton, R. I., where they are tried, being fired from a regular torpedo tube, a dummy head being substituted for the loaded war head. Extra Government inspectors arrived in town yesterday to inspect all the work being done.

DEFENCES OF NEW ORLEANS. Guns for the Forts Below the City Being Pu in Position-Torpedo Plans.

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 22.-Major Quint United States army engineer in charge of this lintrict, has returned from a trip to the forts below the city. He says that the line of the de fence laid down by the Secretary of War is being strictly and rapidly followed. Two 8-inch guns which were sent to Fort St. Philip have been received. They will be put in position without delay. The guns of the same calibre for Fort Jackson will be received this week. An adequate number of srtillerymen for each fort will be furnished should occasion demand it. The river channel will be laid with torpedoes and obstructions will be placed in the jetty channel. In case of emergency the defence of New Orleans can be made formidable in a short time. guns which were sent to Fort St. Philip hav

Smokeless Powder for Boston Fortz BOSTON, March 22.-Ten thousand pounds of

mokeless powder was distributed to-day to the garrisons at Long Island Head and Grover's Cliff, reinforcing the large quantity distributed last week. At 9 o'clock this morning a chooner, which has been lying at Mystic Wharf since her arrival from the Dupont powder works in Delaware, began unloading her cargo, consisting of a large quantity of the ex-plosive, on a lighter, and by noon Winthrop and Long Island had received it.

Trial Trip of the Torpede Heat Hedgers. NORFOLK, Va., March 22 .- The torpedo boat Rudgers left the navy yard at 9 o'clock this morning with Commander Emery and the trial poard on board. She will be accepted by the Government if the speed of 2412 knots was made. Commodore Farquhar says positively, however, that nothing will be given out as to the test until after the trial board reports to the Secretary. She remained outside the capes only twenty minutes, returning to the yard at i

Buying Cavalry Horses.

KANSAS CITY, March 22.-The United States Government has increased its orders for cavalry horses. Rufus E. Eddy of Cameron, Mo., is here buying all the horses suitable for cavalry or ar-tiller; purposes that he can find. He represents John D. Guyion & Co. of St. Louis, who host most of the Government's Western contracts for these purchases.

Worth Secing. Simpson's new Loan Office and Safe Deposit Vanita, 140 West 43d st., user Broadway.—ddu.

FOOD FOR THE STARVING.

MR. KLOPSOH HAS ENOUGH TO FEMA 200,000 FOR A MONTH.

The Supply, Mowever, to Still Inadequate—In 405 Towns 205,000 Equencentrades Ard Starving-Pittful Reports from All Out Censuls - Ettchens Started in Bavanos

HAVANA, March 29.-The work of American charity in Cuba is beyond praise. THE SUN'S correspondent has read to-day the official report of Mr. Klopsoh, and is in a position to say that although heretofers the relief supplies have been in many small quantities, preventing the work of the American Red Cross Boolety from being prosecuted on a larger scale, previs-ions have new been received that will suffice to

feed 200,000 reconcentrates for a month.

Letters and despatches received during the
last three days by Mr. Elepsch from American Consuls and Consular agents confirm the in-tensity of the suffering of the destitute all over the island. Even Mr. McGarr, Consul at Clesfuegos, who until recently did not believe the reports about the situation, says that in his dis-trict at least 15,000 persons are dying of hungar, In 402 towns of the island, in the different provinces, 205,000 reconcentrades are dying. It is estimated that 300 tens of flour and fifty

tons of sausage are necessary to relieve their immediate needs. American charity will be extended as far as possible, Mr. Riepsch says that the reconcentrades look upon America as the home of angels, and they say that in the Americans is their only hope of salvation.
To-morrow a central station for the relief of

the starving people in Havana city will be epened here under the direction of Mr. Klopsch t will be in a large building on Estrella s and it is expected that 12,000 persons will be re lleved there. Mr. Klopsch expects on Thursday a new cargo of provisions from the United States and says is will probably last, with the stock already at hand, some ton days more, Another station is to be established soo San Lazaro street, and several kitchens for cooking the food of the reconcentrades will be

persons. All officers of the Maine who are still here have received orders to-day to leave for Key West to-morrow on the steamer Olivette The body of Williams has been buried in the Colon Cemetery, Havans. Two more six-inch cannon from the Maine

started in different parts of the city. A kitches in San Lazaro street will cook for 2,000 sick

were recovered to-day. ARTILLERY FOR TORTUGAS.

Secretary Alger Wields a Little to the Mayy WASHINGTON, March 22,-The War Departs ment has not yet consented to enter upon the work of fortifying the Dry Tortugas near the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico in accordance with the wishes of the naval administration, but Secretary Alger consented to-day to estab-lish a military station on the island. This action was decided on after the navy officials had made the most urgent representations in regard to the need of affording protection to the proposed establishment of a large coaling and supply station at Tortugas. As told in THE SUN yesterday, Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt believe that extensive fortifications to defend the projected naval station are absolutely necessary to the highest value of the place as a point of military vantage. To-

stances. This was to reestablish the military garrison at Tortugas. Major Joseph P. Sanger, Inspector-General of the army, is strongly opposed to the policy of the War Department officials generally, which is unfavorable to the proposition to construct defences on the island. He has only recently expressed his views on the subject, superior knowledge of the Dry Tortugas, its conditions and surroundings, has recomme them to the serious consideration of Secretary Alger, Only two inspections of the Dry Tortugas have been made since the old Fort Jefferson was ndoned in 1874, and both of these were made by Major Sanger. He indorses emphatically the views of the Navy Department in regard to the strategic value of Tortugas, and cites the former policy of the War Department, which maintained these fortifications, manned by more than 400 guns, as an evidence of the importance

day the War Department was urged to do the least which could be asked under the circum-

cessive administrations of the army. The Navy Department officials have not yet given up hope that the War Department will consent to fortify Tortugas in view of the imminence of a war in Southern waters, where the American fleet would certainly be more or less dependent on the location as a base of supplies The garrison to be assigned to the Tortugas will probably consist of a company of artillery, but which company this will be has not been decided on. The War Department has not ye indicated whether or not any modern coast deence ordnance will be used on the Tortugas in connection with the establishment of an artil-

which was once attached to the place by suc

ery company there. It has been decided to remove to the Water vilet Arsenal at West Troy, N. Y., a number of coast defence guns now lying at the Sandy Hook proving grounds. These guns, about eighty in number, are useless at present for the reas that no emplacements at any of the sites of proposed fortifications have yet been prepared to receive them. They are exposed to the elements dy Hook, and their transportation to the Watervliet Arsenal will be a measure of preser

Bids were opened in the Bureau of Ordnanes of the War Department to-day for about 500,000 pounds of brown prismatic powder for use in coast defence guns. There were only two bidders. These were the Dupont Company of Wilmington, Del., and the Peyton Company of California. The bids of both were thirty-two cents and a fraction per pound, with provises hat deliveries would be made at the rate of 25,000 pounds a week, three weeks after a con tract should be executed. The bids were so cearly identical that it is probable the contract will be divided between the two companies.

SIXTH ARTILLERY'S STATIONS. Orders Distributing the Satteries of the New Regiment.

WASHINGTON, March 22 .- A change in the orders to the Sixth Artillery, one of the reginents just organized, has been made by the War Department, so as to distribute the batteries at several stations instead of keeping the entire regiment at one of keeping the carter regiment at one place. The new orders provide for this distribution: At Fort McHenry, Md., Col. Williston, regimental headquarters, one Major and two batteries; at Washington berracks, two field and two foot batteries; at Fort Monroe, one Major and two foot batteries, and at Fort Hamilton, one Major and two foot batteries.

THE NEW THRPEDO BOAT. Bought from Yarrow for Lees Than \$25,000, and Now on the Way Here.

WASHINGTON, March 22,-The tiny torpede boat which the Government has purchased in England was bought from Yarrow. She has a displacement of only 45 tons, is 60 feet long, and makes 20 knots an hour. The price paid was less than \$25,000, which

respire pair values and cost of delivery of the ressel in New York, whence she is now on route on a mail steamer. Naval officials say that the boat cannot go to sea, but will be very valuable for hartor diffence. She carries one torpedo tube and two 1-paunder rapid-firing gues.

Every Patron'ls an Advertises The patrons of the New York Central's through trains are never fired of ceiling tour f about the commort of a trip via that time, the popular passenger like in America.—Adm.